



ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

FOR

1938.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health :

William Hamer Leigh, D.P.H., M.R.C.S.

Sanitary Inspector :

Frank Markland, M.S.I.A.
Cert. Royal Sanitary Institute for Meat Inspection.

Clerical Assistant :

Thomas Marshall.

Public Health Committee.

Chairman :

Councillor Mrs. K. M. Fletcher, J.P., C.C.

Councillors :

H. J. BRETT.	P. HUGHES.
J. DAWSON.	S. LANCASTER.
C. FLETCHER.	J. MASSEY
C. HARDMAN.	F. POULTON.
O. HATTON.	T. SPEAKMAN.
H. E. HEYES.	E. VALENTINE.
J. WALSH.	

Urban District Council of Atherton

Public Health Department.

JUNE, 1939

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I beg to submit the Annual Report upon the Health of the District during the year 1938.

The District lies upon the Coal Measures, with a subsoil of clay. The elevation above sea level is from 102 to 251 feet.

The **Area** comprises 2,265 acres.

The following is a summary of important particulars.

The **Population** at census of 1931 was 19,989. The estimated population in the middle of 1938 is given by the Registrar General as 20,590.

The **Number of Inhabited Houses** in 1921 was 4,111. The 1931 Census figure is 4,701. The Rate Book shews that at the end of 1938, 5,835 houses were in occupation, giving a ratio of 3.52 persons per house compared with 4.79 in 1921.

The **Deaths from all Causes** totalled 211 of which 111 were males and 97 females. This gives an actual death-rate for the District of 10.2 as against 11.2 last year.

Under the scheme of correction by the Registrar General which aims at an equitable distribution for the country as a whole, the rate now styled "Corrected Death-rate" is given as 11.6.

The causes of Deaths are detailed in Table I.; comparisons with other years in Table II., and with England and Wales, &c., Table III.

The **Births** notified numbered 275, 146 males and 129 females ; giving a rate of 13·6 per 1,000 inhabitants.

The **Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age** totalled 12, giving a rate of 42 as compared with a five years' average of 64 per 1,000 babies born. Comparisons with other years are given in Tables II. and III.

The **Deaths from Tuberculosis** numbered 10; Respiratory System, 8; other Tuberculous Disease, 2. This gives a rate of 0·38 per 1,000 inhabitants.

The **Infectious Diseases** notified totalled 246. These are detailed in Tables IV. and VII.

The **School Clinic and Child Welfare Centre** are conducted at Alder House. Provision is made for routine examinations dental and ultra-violet treatment. Special eye and orthopaedic examinations are held at the Tyldesley Clinic. The work in connection with the latter cases is carried out in conjunction with the staff of Biddulph Hospital which is available for suitable cases.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme in addition to the above services, provides for assistance in the form of milk for babies, expectant and nursing mothers.

Where home or financial difficulties are anticipated, patients are assisted to obtain entry to the Leigh or other Maternity Homes.

I desire to express thanks to the Voluntary Lady Helpers at the Child Welfare. Mrs. Wardley, the Hon. Secretary, has kindly furnished me with the following details of attendances :—

During the year 1938, 44 Meetings were held on Wednesdays and 44 on Thursdays. 627 babies attended the Welcome.

327 babies under one year attended and the attendances numbered 3541, giving an average of 40·22 per meeting.

183 babies over one and under two years attended. The attendances numbered 1107, giving an average of 12·58 per meeting.

117 babies over two years attended. The attendances numbered 492, giving an average of 5·59 per meeting. A total of 57 per meeting.

32 mothers attended the ante-natal clinic and there were 97 attendances.

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres—2,265.

Population—Census, 1931—19,989 (9,604 males, 10,385 females).

(Children under five years of age—1,377).

Estimated Population (middle 1938) 20,590.

Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931)—1,701.

Number of inhabited houses at end of 1938 according to Rate Books—5,835.

Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1931) 5,000.

Rateable Value—£97,379.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£369.

The social conditions of the inhabitants are mainly industrial, and the chief occupations are Coal Mining, Cotton Spinning, Nut and Bolt Manufacturing and the Lancashire United Transport and Power Company.

There is no evidence of the influence of any particular occupations on public health, nor has there been any unusual or excessive mortality during the year.

2—GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Hospitals Available.

(a) Infectious Diseases.

The Isolation Hospital at Astley is available for the treatment of Infectious Diseases, including Small-pox. This hospital serves for eight constituent authorities and the governing body is the Leigh Joint Hospital Board.

(b) General Medical and Surgical.

The Hospitals in Manchester, Salford, Bolton and Leigh are available for cases from this area.

(c) **Maternity Cases.**

These cases are admitted to Hospitals and Maternity Homes situated in Leigh, Bolton and Manchester.

(d) **Tuberculosis.**

Tuberculosis patients are admitted to the Sanatoria of the Lancashire County Council.

(e) **Puerperal Pyrexia.**

Cases of this type are admitted to the Astley Sanatorium or the hospitals of the Lancashire County Council.

(f) **Chronic Sick, Mental and Orthopædic.**

The various hospitals of the Lancashire County Council are available for the treatment of these cases.

(g) **Venereal Diseases**

Bolton, Wigan and Manchester Hospitals are available for this area.

(h) **Other Hospitals.**

The Manchester, Salford, Bolton and Leigh Hospitals are available for children, also for eye, ear, nose and throat cases.

There is also the Public Assistance Institution with a separate Infirmary within the District.

Average use has been made of the various hospitals, and there is no evidence of inadequacy.

Ambulance Facilities.

- (a) For Infectious Diseases :—Cases removed by motor ambulance owned by the Leigh Joint Hospital Board.
- (b) For Non-infectious and accident cases.—Removed by motor ambulances owned by Atherton U.D.C.
- (c) For Maternity Cases :—Removed by motor ambulances owned by the Atherton U.D.C.

Clinics.

The Clinic at Alder House is open each Wednesday and Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m. for consultation and treatment in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare. The Lancashire County Council is the governing body.

At the same address, the Lancashire County Council have provided a School Clinic, with which are associated Orthopaedic, Dental and Artificial Light Clinics.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

This work is done by arrangement with the District Nursing Association. The duties are confined to non-infectious diseases. Midwifery is not undertaken. The Council contribute a sum of £50 per annum to the Association.

There are five midwives practising in the area. Under the Midwives Act, three of these are appointed by the County Council as whole-time salaried midwives.

The Health Committee have authorised the provision of a Nurse when necessary for the treatment of Measles.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The water of the district is derived from the Manchester and Bolton supplies and is of good quality. The supply is constant and each house is supplied separately.

The water is analysed regularly at Manchester and Bolton, and has only a very slight liability to plumbo-solvent action. Three samples were taken in Atherton in addition to the above, and these were found on examination to be satisfactory.

Streams.

Streams within the District are examined periodically to prevent pollution. There are no dye, nor artificial silk works in Atherton.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The drainage and sewerage system of the area is of the type known as the Combined System. The sewage is dealt with by the Leigh Sewerage Board by means of contact beds, &c.

Closest Accommodation

At the end of 1938, the approximate numbers and types of closet accommodation were as follows, viz. :—

Fresh water closets	...	...	5,681
Waste-water closets	...	...	1,217
Privies	...	...	16

The number of portable ashbins for refuse is 5,945.

CONVERSIONS.	During 5 years			
	During 1938		1933-1937	
From Privies to F.W.C's.	...	0	...	1
From privies to Pails	...	0	...	0
From W.W.C's. to F.W.C's.	..	96	..	151
No. of houses where ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles	...	2	...	12

The existing privies are situated in the out-districts, at farms, etc., where no sewer is available. The conversion of these is necessarily difficult and some considerable time must elapse before they can be totally abolished.

Where conversions are carried out, the Council pay half-cost, with a maximum of £4 0s. 0d. per closet.

Scavenging.

Scavenging and removal of house refuse is carried out in a satisfactory manner by the Council. All premises are visited weekly for removal of house refuse, with the exception of the farms, where privies are emptied monthly.

Street sweeping is done by means of manual labour, whilst the house refuse is removed by a motor wagon and two motor freighters.

The refuse is disposed of at Millers Lane Tip, and the Ministry of Health's regulations are carried out with respect to covering with soil, etc.

Sanitary Inspections.

Particulars of these inspections are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Factories and Workplaces.

These premises are inspected periodically, and the general condition is fairly satisfactory. Particulars are contained in Table V.

Swimming Pools and Baths.

There is a public swimming bath owned by the Council in the district. The water is subject to continuous filtration and chlorination. New plant has recently been installed, and a high standard of purity is maintained.

Samples were submitted for analysis during the year and each was found to be satisfactory.

In addition to the above, pit head baths installed at each of the three collieries are appreciated by the coal miners.

All the water used for bathing purposes is drawn from the town's supply.

Schools.

The sanitary condition of the schools has been fairly good.

The state of the playgrounds may be regarded as satisfactory, with the exception of Chowbent and Lee Street Schools.

In these cases, the attention of the managers was drawn to the unsatisfactory state over a year ago.

As regards the Chowbent School I am informed that a County grant has been sanctioned for purpose of improvement and that the work will shortly commence.

I am unaware of any action taken regarding Lee Street School.

All the schools are connected to the town's water supply,

Scholars suffering from Infections Disease and "Contacts" are excluded from the schools in accordance with the Memorandum of the Ministry of Health relating to the subject. Notices of exclusion are sent to the Head Teachers.

It was unnecessary to resort to school closure during the year for the prevention of Infections Diseases.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

There are no premises in Atherton where rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

4, (a)—HOUSING—STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

(a)	Total (including numbers given separately under (b) ...	..	...	100
(i)	By the Local Authority ...	...	...	78
(ii)	By other Local Authorities ...	...	...	Nil
(iii)	By other bodies or persons ...	...	...	22
(b)	With state assistance under the Housing Acts :			
(i)	By the Local Authority ...	...	...	42
(ii)	By other bodies or persons...	...	...	Nil

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)...	976
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1659
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	58
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	153
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	27
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	538

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notice :—*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	493
--	-----

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

A - Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	36
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	35
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	1

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	9
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—						
(a) By Owners...	...	...	...	...	...	9
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

D —Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

E —Housing Act, 1936.—Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	...	...	...	...	...	4
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	4
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	27
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	2
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	33
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	...	263
(d) Number of cases of overcrowding in houses owned by the local authority which have been relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	30
(e) Number of cases of overcrowding which have been relieved in the course of slum clearance operations	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(f) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

4. (b).—HOUSING CONDITIONS.

(1). *General Conditions.*

As is usual with industrial towns, there is in this District a large proportion of cottage property, with an average age of 60/70 years. These cottages are built in rows, and are generally in a fair state of repair.

Other houses are about 40/50 years old, which are also built in rows. These are in a fairly good condition.

Practically all post war houses are of the semi-detached type.

(2) *Sufficiency of Houses.*

There are approximately 36 applications for Council houses from residents in the District who are in lodgings, and 15 applications from people in lodgings outside the town. In addition there are 156 applicants who are householders in the District and 58 applicants for Council houses who are householders outside the town.

(3). *Overcrowding.*

The survey carried out in 1935 revealed that 231 (137%) of the houses were overcrowded.

Following the survey, 86 houses were erected by the Council to accommodate the overcrowded families, and during 1938, 263 persons forming 33 families were able to secure houses large enough for their requirements.

In my opinion the powers of entry conferred by the Housing Acts are inadequate for dealing with suspected cases of overcrowding.

(4) *Fitness of Houses.*

Apart from the foregoing paragraph no serious difficulties were encountered in the administration of the Housing Acts.

(5). *General Observation.*

Housing conditions have improved generally and every endeavour is being made to maintain a higher standard of housing for the working classes. During the year 4 individual unfit houses were demolished and action was taken with respect to 4 Clearance areas comprising 23 houses.

In accordance with the request of the Minister of Health that the Local Authorities should expedite the abolition of unfit houses, 228 houses have been demolished and the closure of 10 houses has been secured. 2 houses are pending demolition.

Since the war the total number of new houses erected in Atherton is approximately 1829, of which 1416 have been erected by the Council.

5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a). *Milk Supply.*

All farms and dairies within the District are inspected periodically. The farm buildings were found to be fairly satisfactory.

There are 19 farms in the area with an approximate total of 260 cows. There are also 56 milk-shops, of which 41 are registered for the sale of bottled milk only. One retail distributor was licensed for the sale of "Pasteurised" milk, and 9 distributors licensed for the sale of "Accredited" milk.

(b). *Bakehouses.*

29 Bakehouses are registered in the District, and are in a fairly satisfactory condition.

(c). *Food Adulteration.*

The Sale of Food and Drugs Acts are administered by the County Police, and details of samples will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

6.—CONTROL AND PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases are admitted to the Isolation Hospital in the event of insufficient accommodation being available at the patient's home, or where it is advisable that, for some other reason, he should be removed.

175 houses were disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease, formalin being utilised for the purpose.

It was unnecessary to issue any report during 1938 under Section 14 (5) of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926.

Diphtheria.

During last year there were notified 127 cases of Diphtheria compared with a five years' average of 50. 120 cases were removed to hospital.

Diphtheria of a fairly severe type was consistently prevalent without assuming epidemic proportions. In a number of cases the spread of infection could be traced to contact, but in the majority, attempts to trace the source of infection were unsuccessful.

Once more I acknowledge the co-operation of medical practitioners in our scheme consisting of the provision of outfits for the collection and examination of specimens and a supply of serum for treatment. This latter is supplied free of charge and is available at all times.

The specimens were examined at the Public Health Laboratory of the Manchester University.

The number sent for examination was 185, of which 52 gave a positive result. The positive cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital as also were 58 cases which shewed definite clinical signs. In addition 10 suspicious cases were admitted, but were discharged after a few days treatment.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

In December, 1937, a scheme was commenced whereby the treatment was offered free of charge to all suitable children under school-leaving age.

The parent of each child was communicated with by letter which explained the scheme and contained a consent card to be signed and returned.

Approximately 3500 such letters were dispatched

The total acceptances numbered 1,031.

Appointment cards were then issued for attendance at the School Clinic where the treatment was carried out under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health, by a panel of local practitioners who all undertook service. Each session provided for the treatment of thirty children.

Toxoid

The serum used was T.A.F. (Toxide Antitoxin Floccules) and the treatment was spaced so as to allow an interval of two to three weeks between the first and second, and one of three to four weeks between the second and final doses.

In only one case was there clinical evidence of Reaction, this being an inflammatory condition of the arm. It quickly yielded to local treatment.

5% of those who consented to be treated failed to attend for the full number of doses.

The degree of immunity concerning these must remain doubtful.

It was not found practicable to carry out a general Schick test though this was applied in certain cases where there was doubt as to the child having suffered from the disease or having received serum on a previous occasion.

Statistics below will be found to show that from the point of view of susceptibility, the effect of the treatment was very satisfactory.

From a Public Health standpoint, the result was somewhat disappointing, as approximately 60% of the schoolchildren remained untreated.

The carrier problem thus remains a menace, the carrier maybe being a child protected himself from actual attack, yet potentially dangerous to school fellows who are unprotected.

Further appeals have been made to the public, but the response has again been disappointing as regards numbers.

It is hoped that by education of the public greater success in this direction may be achieved.

During 1938, included in 127 cases of diphtheria notified, were 15 children who had received varying doses of immunisation treatment as follows:

- 1 case following one dose only.
- 3 cases following two doses only.
- 1 case stated to have been privately immunised.
- 3 cases within 3 weeks of third dose.
- 7 cases regarded as fully immunised.

All the above were removed to the Isolation Hospital and the Medical Superintendent supplied the following information regarding the cases:—

The case having received one dose was graded as moderately severe.

One of the three cases following two doses and two of the cases following three doses regarded as not being Diphtheria.

Of the remaining twelve cases, one was graded as "Moderately severe" while three showed evidence of mild clinical diphtheria.

Eight were detained in hospital as "Carriers."

All the cases made good recovery.

A striking fact is that of approximately 1,000 immunised, no deaths occurred amongst the fifteen cases notified, whereas regarding the 2,500 unprotected children 112 cases were notified, and of these six ended fatally.

Scarlet Fever.

A mild type of this disease was in evidence throughout almost the whole year. The disease was scattered about the higher parts of the town and was probably spread by "missed" cases, occasioned by the extreme mildness of the illness.

37 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, as against a five years' average of 64. 26 cases were removed to hospital.

There were no deaths from this disease during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years.								
0		...	..	...	..	..	..	...
1		..	1	..	..	..	..	...
5		...	..	1	..	..	...	...
10		..	1	..	...	..	...	...
15				1	...	..	...	...
20	1	1		..	...	1	...	..
25		1	...	..	1	..	...	...
35	1		..	1	1	1	1	...
45	1		..	..	2	..	...	...
55	3			1	..	..	...	...
65 and upwards	...		..	..	2	...	1	...
	6	2	2	7	6	2	2	
Totals ...	8		9		8		2	

In my opinion the notification of tuberculosis is efficient.

The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to tuberculosis deaths is 11·6%.

The provisions of the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, and of Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, were not employed during the year as it was unnecessary to exercise those powers.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was necessary under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, relating to the prevention of blindness.

Four cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during the year.

Summary of Sanitary Improvements.

The improvements carried out during 1938 were (a) The demolition of insanitary houses; (b) The re-housing of the occupants of these houses; (c) Erection of 78 houses by the Council; (d) General scheme for the conversion of waste water closets and (e) The gradual raising of the standard of Housing.

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM H. LEIGH,

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1938.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

JUNE, 1939.

MRS. FLETCHER AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my report of the work done in the Public Health Department during the year 1938, together with particulars as to nuisances and defects found and abated.

SUMMARY OF GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Houses (including re-visits)	1659
Newly Inspected Houses	175
Houses let as lodgings	26
Schools	11
Factories	58
Workplaces	9
Bakelhouses	36
Dairies, Cowsheds, etc.	17
Drains	38
Slaughter houses	185
Food Preparing Premises	37
Shops	286
Miscellaneous	393
Total	2963

and in connection with these inspections, the following nuisances and defects were found and remedied, viz.:

	Found	Abated
Houses needing re-decoration	25	25
House roofs in need of Repair	75	71
Defective Cisterns of Water Closets	19	19
Defective or Choked Drains	38	38
Insanitary Condition of Yards	19	18
Animals or Fowls kept as to be a Nuisance	3	3
House Walls Damp	53	52
Broken Window Cords	68	67
Defective Window Frames	59	59
Defective Eaves Gutters	73	72
Defective Plaster of House Walls	109	107
Burst Water Pipes	12	12
Miscellaneous (Floors, Staircases, etc.)	175	173
	<u>758</u>	<u>749</u>

Arising from these nuisances, the following notices were given. viz. :—

Verbal	...	...	...	107
Informal (written)	...	...	...	493
Statutory	...	...	...	36

The abatement of the nuisances was secured without resort to Police Court Proceedings.

HOUSING INSPECTION.

The number of houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations totalled 58, whilst the houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts totalled 976 of which 27 were found to be in such a state as to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. 538 were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.

Of the 27 houses found to be unfit, 4 were demolished as individual unfit houses, remaining 23 being dealt with by Clearance Area procedure.

In addition there were 4 houses demolished for road improvement works.

The number of houses which have been demolished or put out of use under the provisions of the Housing Acts 1930-1936 are as follows :—

		Persons displaced
Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	134	536
Houses demolished as Individual Unfit Houses	75	280
Houses closed	10	14
Houses demolished voluntarily by owners..	9	0
Houses pending demolition	2	11
	<u>230</u>	<u>841</u>

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

Observations amounting to a total of 19 were taken of chimneys within the district at fairly regular periods. The time allowed by the Council is a maximum of 2½ minutes per half hour.

Where a chimney is emitting smoke bordering on the 2½ minutes in any half hour, the usual procedure in Atherton is to interview the works manager. This method has the advantage of securing mutual co-operation of the Council and the works concerned, with satisfaction to each. It was not necessary to serve any notices during the year.

PLACES UNDER INSPECTION,

The following is a brief list of works, etc., under inspection.

Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Factory Chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Workshops and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Cowsheds	..	..	...	...	...	...	19
*Milkshops	..	...	...	...	...	...	56
Ice Cream and other Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Fried Fish Shops	..	...	...	...	...	...	35

* These figures include 41 shops registered for the sale of Bottled Milk only.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Animals intended for human food are examined at the time of slaughter when practicable, and shops, stalls, vans and other premises are inspected frequently.

There are nine licenced and one registered slaughter-houses in the District.

The number of animals examined at slaughter-houses are as follows :—

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows		Cows		Calves		Sheep and Lambs		Pigs
Number killed (if known)	0		0		Not ascertained.		0		0
Number Inspected...	246	..	738	...	16	...	400	..	272
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS									
Whole carcasses condemned	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	14	...	82	...	0	...	68	...	32
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	5.6	..	11.1	...	0	...	17	...	11.4
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY—									
Whole carcasses condemned	0	...	0	...	0	..	0	...	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	29	...	178	...	0	...	0	...	15
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	12.2	...	24.1	...	0	..	0	...	5.5

MILK SUPPLY.

Routine inspection of Farms, Dairies and Milkshops was carried out during 1938.

The farms were kept in a fairly satisfactory condition, and the animals generally well groomed and clean.

The dairy cattle are now examined by the officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Three farmers in Atherton hold licences for the production and distribution of "Accredited" Milk.

A few of the older farms still require improvements as regards window space, floors, etc., and it is hoped that these conditions will be remedied in the near future.

All the farms are connected to the town's water supply.

26 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli, of which three were found to be positive. The animals concerned were traced and subsequently destroyed under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Orders.

14 other samples were submitted for bacteriological examination. Of these 3 were found unsatisfactory, and suitable action was taken in the matter.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Mr. Supt. McHardy, of the County Police, has kindly given me a list of the samples taken in Atherton under the above acts, during the year 1938, and are as follow :—

Milk	...	...	...	...	...	39
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	3
Lard	...	...	...	...	...	3
Tea...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rice	.	.	.	..	..	1
Flour S.R.	...	...	...	..	..	1
Sugar	...	...	...	...	...	1
Jam	...	...	..	...	...	1
Barley	...	...	...	..	..	1
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	1
Marmalade	...	..	..	...	...	1
Glycerine...	..	...	...	...	...	1
Castor Oil	.	...	...	...	...	1
Epsom Salts	...	..	...	...	...	1
Glauber Salts	...	...	...	...	...	1
						<hr/>
						58
						<hr/>

No proceedings have been taken against any vendors during the year.

SHOPS ACT.

286 Shops were inspected during the year with the result that the following works were carried out on verbal notice being given :—

Repairs to W.C's...	7
Additional W.C's.	2
Improvements to Ventilation ...	6
Improvements as to Temperature	5
Improvements as to Washing facilities	9

No further action was necessary.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The amount of house refuse collected during the year was approximately 7,000 tons, and this was disposed of by means of controlled tipping at Millers Lane Tip.

The costs of the Refuse Collection and Disposal Services are as follow, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Net Cost per Ton.,	9	3	36
Net Cost per 1,000 population	157	13	4
Net Cost per 1,000 houses	556	12	10
Net Cost per house per annum	11	1	5
Net Cost per visit ...	2	5	6

VERMINOUS HOUSES.

The number of houses disinfested during the year totalled 39, of which 21 were Council property. Sulphur was used in the majority of cases although in some instances it was found necessary to resort to Hydrogen Cyanide, the work being done by a Contractor. The latter process necessitates the vacation of the house affected and also the adjoining houses. The difficulty of finding temporary alternative accommodation, in conjunction with the relatively high cost of the process, compels the use of less drastic measures.

Sulphur Dioxide and liquid insecticides freely used, along with the active co-operation of the occupier of the house have given some quite satisfactory results.

It is the practice that furniture and belongings of prospective tenants of Council property are inspected before removal. Should vermin be found, suitable precautions and disinfestation are adopted.

This Department will always give advice and assistance where it is required.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT.

In connection with the above act, the Council's rat-catcher informs me that he destroyed 289 rats within the district during the year. Other rats, numbers not known, have been destroyed by unofficial rat-catchers. The methods employed for destruction of rodents include the use of dogs, ferrets, poison and poison gas. The figures quoted only refer to rats actually counted, and are probably higher due to the use of poison baits and the gassing machine. The baits are made to the formulæ of the Ministry of Agriculture, and contain either Red Squill or Barium Carbonate.

There was no Rat Week held during 1938, as continuous action is maintained throughout the year.

The onus of rat destruction lies upon the occupier of the premises or land infested, and whilst this Department will give assistance and advice on the matter, we cannot relieve any persons of their responsibilities and obligations imposed by the Act.

In concluding my report, I desire to thank Members of the Staff who have given me assistance in its compilation.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

F. MARKLAND,

Sanitary Inspector.

ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT. **Table I.**
Causes of Death during the Year 1938

CAUSES OF DEATH.								MALES.	FEMALES.	
All Causes								114	97	
Measles								2	3	
Scarlet Fever .....								...	...
Diphtheria								1	5	
Whooping Cough .....								...	...
Influenza								3	...	
Encephalitis lethargica								1	1	
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System								6	2	
Other Tuberculous Diseases								2	...	
Syphilis .....								...	...
General paralysis of insane, tabes dorsalis &c .....								...	...
Cancer Malignant Disease								15	14	
Diabetes								5	...	
Cerebral Hemorrhage, &c.								7	13	
Heart Disease								23	21	
Aneurism .....								...	...
Other circulatory diseases								9	2	
Bronchitis								3	1	
Pneumonia (all forms)								8	5	
Other respiratory diseases								2	...	
Peptic Ulcer								3	...	
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years) .....								...	...
Appendicitis .....								...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver .....								...	1
Other liver diseases								1	1	
Other digestive diseases								2	2	
Nephritis								5	4	
Puerperal Sepsis .....								...	...
Other puerperal causes .....								...	2
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.								4	2	
Senility								1	8	
Suicide .....								...	1
Other Violence								5	1	
Other Defined Diseases								6	7	
Causes ill-defined or unknown .....								...	1
Small Pox .....								...	...
Poliomyelitis .....								...	...
Polioencephalitis .....								...	...
Deaths of Infants under one year {								Total	8	4
								Legitimate	8	4
								Illegitimate
Live Births {								Total	149	132
								Legitimate	146	129
								Illegitimate	3	3
Still-births {								Total	4	10
								Legitimate	4	10
								Illegitimate

POPULATION—Middle of 1938 (Estimate)—20,590.

TABLE II.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		TOTAL		MALE		FEMALE	
Live Births	{	Legitimate...	...	275	146	129	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 136
		Illegitimate	...	6	3	3	
		Total	...	281	149	132	
Still Births		...	...	14	4	10	Rate per 1,000 Total (live and stillbirths) Births ... 47
Deaths		...	...	211	114	97	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population *10.2
Deaths from Puerperal causes —							
		Puerperal sepsis	...	Nil	Nil		
		Other puerperal causes	...	2	6.77		
		Total	...	2	6.77		
Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—							
		All infants per 1,000 live births	...	42			
		Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	40			
		Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	166			
Deaths from		Cancer (all ages)	...	29			
"		Measles (all ages)	...	5			
"		Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	
"		Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	
PER 1,000 OF ESTIMATED POPULATION.							
		Live Birth-rate	13.9	11.5	0.55	1.38	Maternal Mortality Rate. per 1000 Live Births Total (Live and Still Births) Rate of Deaths under One year per 1000 live Births
		14.0	11.2	0.29	0.26	1.26	
		13.6	*10.2	0.38	1.40	1.40	
Mean of 5 years, 1933-37							
1937		...	...	...	...	...
1938		...	...	...	...	...
Increase or Decrease in 1938 on—							
Five Years' Average 1933-1937		0.3	-1.3	-0.17	+0.02	+3.62	-22
Previous Year		-0.4	-1.0	+0.09	+0.14	+7.11	-9
							Population—20,590.
							*1938 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor 1.14)=11.6 per 1,000.

TABLE III.—Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1938.

England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.)

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (resi- dent Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
Rates per 1,000 Population.				
Births :				
Live	15.1	15.0	15.1	13.1
Still	0.60	0.65	0.60	0.18
Deaths :				
All Causes	11.6	11.7	11.0	11.1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	0.00		0.00	..
Measles	0.01	0.05	0.03	0.06
Scarlet Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Diphtheria	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05
Influenza	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.06
Notifications :				
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	2.11	2.60	2.58	2.05
Diphtheria	1.58	1.85	1.53	1.90
Enteric Fever	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.05
Erysipelas	0.04	0.16	0.39	0.40
Pneumonia	1.10	1.28	0.98	0.98
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age	53	57	51	57
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enter- itis under 2 years of age	5.5	7.8	3.6	13.1
Maternal Mortality :				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.89	Not Available.		
Others	2.19			
Total	3.08			
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still)				
Maternal Mortality :				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.86	Not Available.		
Others	2.11			
Total	2.97			
Notifications :				
Puerperal Fever				3.53
Puerperal Pyrexia	11.12	18.08	12.51	15.46

Table IV.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year, 1938.

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED														Total Deaths	HOSPITAL	
	Total Cases at all ages	YEARS.														Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over				
Smallpox ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	37	..	..	1	2	6	17	5	2	..	2	2	..	..	..	26	..
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ...	127	1	1	1	6	10	63	26	10	6	1	2	..	6	..	120	6
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Primary Pneumonia	48	4	5	2	1	1	7	2	1	8	3	9	5	16	×	8	..
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia ... ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	* 1	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	1	..	..		7	1	..
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Polio-encephalitis ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	21	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	6	6	7	..	..	6	..	..
Malaria (contracted abroad) ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken Pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles excluding German Measles ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Any other diseases ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	246	9	6	4	9	17	87	34	13	23	13	19	12	..	..	..	..

× Not Ascertained.

* Deaths Classified together.

TABLE V.

I.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

PREMISES. (1)	Number of Inspections (2)	Number of Written Notices (3)	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted * (4)
Factories (with mechanical power) ...	33	4	..
Factories (without mechanical power)	61	7	...
Other Premises (other than Outworkers' premises)	9	1	...
TOTAL	103	12	Nil

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

Nuisances under the Public Health and Factory Acts:

	Found	Abated
Want of Cleanliness—	5	5
Want of Ventilation ...	2	2
Want of Drainage of Floors ...	..	...
Overcrowding ..	2	2
Unreasonable temperature ..	1	1
Sanitary Accommodation :		
Insufficient ..	...	...
Unsuitable or defective ...	6	6
Not separate for sexes ...	...	...
Total ...	16	16

TABLE VI.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING YEAR 1938.

DISTRIBUTION IN WARDS.

CAUSE.	North	East	South	West	Central	Sex		Total	Total Deaths in Hospitals (Inward trans)	
						Males	Females		M.	F.
Puerperal Causes	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Pulmonary T.B.	3	1	...	1	3	6	2	8	2	1
Non-Pulmonary T.B. ... ..	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	2	1	...
Cancer	11	7	3	5	3	15	14	29	4	3
Diphtheria	3	2	...	...	1	1	5	6	1	5
Cerebral Haem.	5	2	3	8	6	13	11	24	6	4
Arterio Sclerosis	3	3	2	2	3	11	2	13	...	1
Heart Diseases	12	4	3	11	14	22	22	44	11	9
Pneumonia	5	7	1	1	2	9	7	16	5	3
Bronchitis ... ..	...	1	...	...	3	3	1	4	...	...
Nephritis... ..	3	1	1	...	3	4	4	8	2	2
Premature Births & Cong. Debility ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	...
Suicides ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Violence excluding Suicide	4	2	1	...	1	5	3	8	3	2
Measles	4	1	...	...	...	2	3	5	...	3
Other defined diseases	5	7	1	4	2	10	9	19	10	4
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...
Diabetes	2	...	...	...	1	1	2	3	...	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	...	1	...	2	3	1	4	...	...
Brain and Nerve Diseases	1	2	1	...	...	3	1	4	2	1
Senile Decay	1	3	...	1	4	1	8	9	...	1
Totals	64	46	17	35	49	114	97	211	49	41

TABLE VII.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1938,
ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

CAUSE.	YEARS.																	
	Under 1	1-2	2-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-60	60-65	65-70	70-75	75-80	80-85	Over 85	Total at all ages
Puerperal Causes							1											1
Scarlet Fever																		
Influenza	1																	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis								2	2	2			2					8
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis									1	1			1					3
Cancer									3	4	5	3	3	1	5	2	3	29
Diphtheria			2	1														3
Cerebral Hemorrhage	1								2	3	5	3	6	1	1	2	2	24
Arterio Sclerosis										1	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	13
Heart Diseases		1		1		1	1	1	3	5	2	4	9	5	6	4	1	44
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	1	2	1					1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1		16
Bronchitis								1					1	1		1		4
Nephritis									3	2			2	1				8
Prem. Births & Cong. Debility	1													1				1
Suicides																		1
Violence excluding Suicide		1		1			1			3				1		1		8
Encephalitis Lethargica												1						1
Measles	3	1	1															5
Diabetes				1														3
Other defined diseases	3		1				2	1	1	2	2		4	1	1			19
Other Respiratory Diseases								1					1		1			4
Brain and Nerve Diseases					2	1		1										4
Senile Decay														1	1	1	3	9
Totals	12	4	7	8	2	2	5	7	16	25	17	13	33	20	20	14	6	211

TABLE VIII.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED

During the year ending December, 1938.

DISTRIBUTION IN WARDS.

DISEASE.	North Ward	East Ward	South Ward	West Ward	Central Ward	P.A. Inst.	Sex		Total	Removed to Astley or other Hospitals
							M.	F.		
Pneumonia	22	8	2	3	13	...	31	17	48	..
Scarlet Fever...	15	5	6	5	6	...	20	17	37	26
Diphtheria ...	70	23	3	16	15	...	77	50	127	120
Erysipelas ...	8	...	2	5	5	1	7	14	21	6
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	...	3	2	...	4	...	.	9	9	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	2	1	..	..	...	1	3	4	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	3	3	1	..	...	...	6	1	7	...
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	1	...	3	1	3	..	1	7	8	...
Totals ...	120	44	20	30	46	1	143	118	261	159

TABLE IX.

PARTICULARS AS TO TREATMENT RECEIVED BY TUBERCULOUS PATIENTS RESIDING IN ATHERTON
DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1938.

No. of Cases :	Adults	Children	Total
Admitted to Sanatoria	1	0	1
Admitted to Pulmonary Hospitals	6	0	6
Admitted to General or Special Hospitals	1	4	5
Granted "Light" Treatment	1	4	5
Granted X-ray Examination	53	4	57
Granted Dispensary Supervision with Provision of Special Nourishment	11	3	14
Granted Dispensary Supervision or Dispensary Treatment	63	12	75
Cases Recovered and taken from Register	9	0	9
Cases under Supervision on 31st December, 1938	63	18	81

The 81 cases under supervision on 31st December, 1938, have been classified as under :—

Pulmonary	35	2	37
Non-Pulmonary	24	16	40
Combined (Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary)	4	0	4
Sputum Examinations	110		
Number in which tubercle bacilli were found	10		

Table X. Table relating to Vital Statistics and Infectious Diseases in other Years

Year	Birth-rate	Death-Rate		Infantile Mortality Rate	Typhoid Fever		Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Measles	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years)
		Actual	Adjusted		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Deaths	
1900	36.7	16.49	...	161.6	13	2	29	3	3	9	...	...	...	...	...	14
1905	30.9	13.7	...	141.8	17	5	55	1	3	24	...	...	...	5	...	34
1910	26.47	14.67	...	154.1	19	3	88	...	2	36	...	...	...	6	...	15
1915	25.44	13.11	...	103.09	7	2	100	...	3	18	...	...	...	9	...	13
1917	19.3	12.3	...	80.29	...	...	51	3	11	17	...	...	...	2	...	6
1918	19.3	17.9	...	138	2	...	7	...	15	15	...	...	...	16	...	3
1919	18.2	12.4	...	85	1	...	39	...	8	11	...	...	...	7	...	5
1920	24.1	12.1	...	109	2	2	49	...	...	15	...	...	...	2	...	9
1921	22.8	10.8	...	96	2	...	36	...	...	13	...	...	...	...	...	13
1922	21.7	12.2	...	89	...	...	52	...	2	18	...	...	...	2	...	6
1923	17.3	11.8	...	101	...	...	85	...	5	14	...	...	...	14	...	3
1921	17.0	10.9	...	60	...	...	83	...	1	19	...	...	...	2	...	...
1925	15.4	10.9	...	63	...	...	52	...	3	8	...	...	...	1	...	...
1926	16.2	10.7	...	63	1	1	46	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
1927	15.3	10.7	...	48	...	...	17	...	1	15	...	...	...	...	...	...
1928	16.7	10.2	...	62	...	...	97	...	...	14	...	...	...	2	...	...
1929	14.8	13.1	...	99	...	...	35	...	1	13	...	...	...	1	...	1
1930	15.3	10.6	...	61	1	...	42	...	...	6	...	...	...	5	...	...
1931	16.2	11.6	...	82	...	...	13	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
1932	15.4	12.6	...	108	...	...	68	...	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...
1933	13.7	11.8	...	71	...	...	73	...	...	11	...	...	...	1	...	...
1934	14.5	10.5	...	67	...	...	116	3	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
1935	13.3	12.6	11.9	73	...	...	78	...	1	9	...	...	...	...	...	...
1936	14.1	11.6	14.3	58	...	...	41	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...
1937	14.0	11.2	13.2	51	1	...	51	...	3	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
			12.7						7	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
1938	13.6	10.2	11.6	42	...	...	37	...	6	8	...	...	...	5	...	...

